

REMARKS

By the above actions, claims 1, 8-10 and 14-16 have been amended. In view of these actions and the following remarks, reconsideration of this application is now requested.

As required, applicant affirms the election of Group I, the process of claims 1-8. However, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is requested for the following reasons. Firstly, the Examiner's basis for the requirement is no longer existent in that claim 1 now requires the computing step to be performed by an evaluation means, not by hand. Furthermore, the attaching and calibrating steps are now positively recited instead of merely inferentially referred to. Most importantly, the features which distinguish the process of the present application from the prior art (as described below) are also reflected in the apparatus claims, so that the same search and issues must be considered with respect to both groups of claims, and a finding of allowability with respect to the elected process claims should also reflect the allowability of the corresponding apparatus claims.

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 based on the patent to Murray while claim 7 has been rejected based on the Murray patent under 35 U.S.C. § 103. This rejection is inappropriate, at least insofar as it relates to the claims as now presented, for the following reasons.

Firstly, as pointed out, e.g., in paragraph [0012] of the present application, the calibration and alignment performed in accordance with the present invention with respect to a coordinate system that is external to the mounted body to be aligned; that is, "the initial laboratory coordinate system, i.e., the initial coordinate system of the factory supporting the roller 10 to be measured." In contrast, in the Murray patent (and all of the other references cited by the Examiner), a "relative" alignment is performed, i.e., of one body relative to another, such as of one shaft or roller relative to another shaft or roller. Thus, the present invention is fundamentally different from that of the applied prior art. Furthermore, because an external coordinate system is used, the present invention is not limited to alignment of 2 in-line bodies, but rather can be used to provide an absolute measurement of direction of a single body and also even if the mounting surface causes the sensor to be slightly skewed. Still further, unlike the assembly and method of the Murray patent in which the measurement probes are mounted on the circumferential surface of the bodies being aligned, in accordance with the present invention, the measurement probe is attached on the end face of the body being aligned or at a longitudinal axis of the body on a surface that is essentially parallel to

the end face of the body. No such mounting location is even suggest by Murray or any of the other cited references and such a location is important to determining the changes in orientation of the reference axis with respect to the external coordinate system (see, orientations 100, 200, 2000" in Fig. 1).

With regard to the Examiner's rejection of claim 7, it is pointed out that the disclosure of the present application (paragraph [0002]) notes that the measurements performed "by means of a two-dimensionally acting angular position transducer, such as an optical gyro," provide "high precision to determine the angular alignment of the roller with respect to a reference direction" and an equivalent degree of precision cannot be obtained with a laser gyro. On the other hand, for performing the method of the Murray patent, no reason exists to use such a high precision two-dimensionally acting optical gyro type transducer since in-line alignment is being performed using a pair of axially aligned measuring elements. Thus, it would not be obvious to substitute an optical gyro for the laser probe unit of Murray, yet such is import when performing applicants' different method which involves utilization of an external coordinate system, not relative positioning of two bodies. Moreover, relative to new claim 17, as noted in paragraph [0012] multiple optical gyros are preferably used in accordance with the present invention for the reasons indicated and Murray neither uses or provides a reason for using multiple optical gyros. Still further, it is pointed out that Murray indicates that his measurements are to be taken at positions of symmetry (top, bottom, east and west sides of the shaft (see table at bottom of columns 13 & 14), while with the multiple gyro arrangement at the axis of the body, no such restriction exists with the present invention.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present invention is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the disclosure of the Murray patent. Thus, withdrawal of the rejections based on the Murray patent under §§ 102/103 is in order, such action now being requested.

As for the Examiner's rejection of claim 8 based on the combination of the Murray patent with that to Woynton, since the Woynton patent also is directed to "axially aligning first and second rotatable elements," using inclinometers, its disclosure cannot overcome the above mentioned shortcomings of the Murray patent. Thus, even if magnets were used to attached Murray's laser probe instead of screws as proposed by the Examiner, the result would still differ from the present invention in all of the manners indicated above. As such, this rejection should also be withdrawn and such action is requested.

The prior art that has been cited, but not applied by the Examiner has been taken into consideration during formulation of this response. However, since this art was not considered by the Examiner to be of sufficient relevance to applying against any of the claims, no detailed comments thereon is believed to be warranted at this time.

While the present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, should the Examiner find some issue to remain unresolved, or should any new issues arise, which could be eliminated through discussions with applicant's representative, then the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone in order that the further prosecution of this application can thereby be expedited.

Lastly, it is noted that a separate Extension of Time Petition accompanies this response along with a check in payment of the requisite extension of time fee. However, should that petition become separated from this Amendment, then this Amendment should be construed as containing such a petition. Likewise, any overage or shortage in the required payment should be applied to Deposit Account No. 19-2380 (741124-77).

Respectfully submitted,

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